

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/645,746

Applicant(s)

MELLO ET AL.

Examiner

Maryam Monshipouri

Art Unit

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4 and 22-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/25/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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An **Examiner's Amendment** to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Debra Milasincic, on 5/25/2007.

Examiner's Amendment to the Claims

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claim 13 directed to non-elected invention without traverse. Accordingly, claim 13 has been cancelled.

Cancel claims 13, 18-21.

In claim 4, lines 3-4, delete "0.2xSSC/0.1% SDS at room temperature" and substitute therefor --- 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C ---.

In claim 22, line 1, after "A", delete "fragment of claim 21, wherein said fragment comprises" and substitute therefor --- substantially pure polypeptide fragment comprising ---.

In claim 22, line 2, after "SEQ ID NO:3", insert ".".

In claim 25, line 1, delete "A substantially pure RDE-1 polypeptide" and substitute therefor --- The substantially pure polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide is ---.

In claim 25, line 2, after "complement", delete "a" and substitute therefor --- an ---.

In claim 26, line 1, "delete " a fragment of ".

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Examiner's Amendments to the Specification

In page 1, line 6, after "claims priority" delete "from", and substitute thereto --- to U.S. Application number 09/689,992 filed October 13, 2000, now abandoned, which claims priority to ---.

In page 7, line 30, after "Figure 4B" insert --- (1-3) ---.

The following is an **Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**:

Claims 4, 22-27 are directed to RDE-1 polypeptide of specific amino acid sequence, specifically claimed fragments and homologs thereof which mediate RNA interference (RNAi) in the presence of double stranded RNA (dsRNA).

Claimed polypeptides are free of prior art. Further, the prior art does not teach or suggest preparing such specifically claimed polypeptides. Hence, said polypeptides are also non-obvious. Since said RDE1 polypeptide is both novel and non-obvious, specifically claimed fragments thereof and specifically claimed homologs thereof are also novel and non-obvious.

Claims 4, 22-27 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maryam Monshipouri whose telephone number is (571) 272-0932. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m to 5:30 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleene Kerr Bragdon can be reached on (571) 272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M. Moishy
Maryam Monshipouri Ph.D.

Primary Examiner
